

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

SSO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 SAJ-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 EB-07 SIL-01

LAB-04 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CU-04 COME-00 /108 W

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R 031555Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6815

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USEC

USMISSION USUN

AMCONGEN STRASBOURG

UNCLAS VIENNA 8476

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SUBJ: AUSTRIAN PROTESTS AGAINST SPAIN END IN VIOLENCE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER SLOW START, REACTION TO
EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN MOUNTED STEADILY IN AUSTRIA,
CULMINATING OCTOBER 2 IN UNCHARACTERISTIC VIOLENCE THAT
INJURED 54 POLICEMEN. AMBASSADOR WAS RECALLED FROM
MADRID, VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS ISSUED CONDEMNATORY
DECLARATIONS, AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL
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TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION ANNOUNCED 48-HOUR BOYCOTT,

AND SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS JOINED IN PROTEST MARCH OCTOBER 2 THAT ENDED IN RIOT. CHANCELLOR KREISKY CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN RELATIVELY MODERATE POSITION IN FACE OF STRONGER REACTION OF SOCIALIST LEADERS ELSEWHERE IN WESTERN EUROPE BUT SOME NORMALLY MODERATE POLITICAL ELEMENTS HAVE BECOME CAPTIVE OF MORE EXTREMIST REACTION, PROBABLY REFLECTING TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN VIEW OF UPCOMING OCTOBER 5 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND STANCE ADOPTED BY COLLEAGUES IN WEST EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER FIRST PROCLAIMING THAT AUSTRIA WAS NOT COUNTRY TO TAKE DEMONSTRATIVE POLITICAL STEPS, THAT AUSTRIAN ABILITY TO HELP PERSECUTEES IN CHILE HAD SHOWN ADVANTAGES OF PRESERVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND THAT STEPS TAKEN AFTER EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED, CHANCELLOR KREISKY TOLD PRESS SEPTEMBER 30 THAT AUSTRIAN CABINET HAD DECIDED TO RECALL ITS AMBASSADOR FROM MADRID "IN ORDER TO OBTAIN DIRECT REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN" AND ALSO TO JOIN IN SUCH ACTIONS AS EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES MAY TAKE WITH RESPECT TO SPAIN.

3. SIMILAR MODERATE POSITION WAS TAKEN BY KREISKY'S SOCIALIST COLLEAGUE AND PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE, KARL CZERNETZ. OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN, MP FRANZ KARASEK, SAID PEOPLE'S PARTY ALSO JOINED PROTESTS BY EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS BUT WARNED THAT HUMANITARIAN APPEALS TO GOS SHOULD NOT IMPEDE JUSTIFIED STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISTS AND EXTREMISTS.

4. PRESS REPORTED STATEMENT OF FONMIN BIELKA AT NEW YORK THAT AUSTRIA OPPOSES EXPULSION OF SPAIN FROM UN, AS WAS PROPOSED BY MEXICAN PRESIDENT, AND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT UNIVERSALITY OF MEMBERSHIP IN UN. IN ADDITION, NON-MARXIST PRESS RAISED QUESTION OF "HYPOCRISY" OF INTENSE FEELINGS IN WESTERN EUROPE IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF SIMILAR INTENSE FEELINGS CONCERNING INTERNAL PRACTICES OF LEFTIST REGIMES AND DICTATORSHIPS ELSEWHERE
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IN WORLD.

5. STREET PROTESTS LED BY COMMUNISTS AND LEFTIST RADICALS EARLY IN WEEK WERE BOISTEROUS BUT SMALL. HOWEVER, AFTER 272 AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS DEMANDED RECALL OF AMBASSADOR AND RECONSIDERATION OF AUSTRIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND TRADE UNION ENTITIES AT BRUSSELS CALLED FOR

ACTION, AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION'S AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED FEDERATION'S 48-HOUR BOYCOTT OF SPANISH TRANSPORT INDUSTRY, SEVERAL TOP-LEVEL SOCIALIST PARTY AND TRADE UNION OFFICIALS AGREED TO JOIN COMMITTEE OF SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS, AND CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS SPONSORING PROTEST MARCH ON OCTOBER 2. PURPOSE WAS TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE OF SPAIN AND OPPOSITION TO "FRANCO FASCISM."

6. FOLLOWING OCTOBER 2 MARCH, ABOUT ONE THOUSAND OF FOUR THOUSAND MARCHERS PROCEEDED TO OFFICES OF IBERIA AIRLINES, WHICH THEY DESTROYED. RIOTERS ALSO DESTROYED OR DAMAGED OTHER NEARBY PROPERTY, INCLUDING AUTOS, AND STONED POLICE WHO ATTEMPTED TO INTERVENE. FIFTY-FOUR POLICE WERE INJURED, THREE SERIOUSLY; SEVEN PERSONS WERE ARRESTED. EMBARRASSED SOCIALIST LEADERS WHO HAD OVERCOME USUAL RELUCTANCE TO UNDERTAKE JOINT ACTION WITH COMMUNISTS, APPARENTLY FOR REASONS RELATED TO OCTOBER 5 ELECTIONS, HAVE SINCE DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLENCE, WHICH THEY SAID MAOISTS AND TROTSKYISTS HAD INSTIGATED. BUCHANAN

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